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**QUINONES AND RODRIGUEZ ARE SENTENCED TO LIFE
IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR MURDER OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that ALAN QUINONES and DIEGO RODRIGUEZ were sentenced today in Manhattan federal court to life imprisonment without the possibility of release, following their convictions for the murder of a New York City Police Department confidential informant.

On July 27, 2004, a jury returned guilty verdicts against QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ, convicting them of racketeering, conspiracy to commit racketeering, narcotics conspiracy and murder in connection with a narcotics conspiracy. QUINONES alone was convicted of a substantive count of narcotics trafficking. The murder in connection with a narcotics conspiracy count was based on the defendants' June 1999 murder of a New York City Police Department ("NYPD") confidential informant, and carried a potential sentence of death or life imprisonment without the possibility of release. On August 5, 2004, the jury opted for life sentences for each defendant.

United States District Judge JED S. RAKOFF, who presided over the trial, also imposed sentences of life imprisonment based on defendants' racketeering and conspiracy to commit racketeering convictions, and 10 years' imprisonment, based on defendants' narcotics conspiracy conviction.

According to the Indictment and the evidence presented at trial, QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ participated in a racketeering enterprise that distributed cocaine in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and heroin in the vicinity of 179th Street and Vyse Avenue in the Bronx and Honeywell Avenue and Bronx Park South in the Bronx.

According to the Indictment and the evidence presented at trial, QUINONES was arrested by the NYPD on March 26, 1999, after selling heroin to an undercover police officer. QUINONES had been introduced to the undercover officer by Eddie Santiago, an NYPD informant.

According to the Indictment and the evidence presented at trial, after being released on bail, QUINONES spent several months hunting down Santiago so that he could kill him in retaliation for Santiago working as an informant and to prevent Santiago from testifying against QUINONES at trial.

According to the Indictment and the evidence presented at trial, on June 27, 1999, through the help of co-conspirators Janet Soto, Hector Vega and Louis Malave, QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ lured Santiago to an apartment located at 926 Bronx Park South. Once there, QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ handcuffed and hogtied

Santiago and kept him captive in the apartment for hours. According to the trial evidence, while held captive in the apartment, QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ taunted and tortured Santiago, by, among other things, spitting on him, putting a cigarette out in his ear and convincing him he was going to die. According to the trial evidence, QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ killed Santiago by covering his mouth with duct tape and strangling him with a cord. According to the trial evidence, after murdering Santiago, QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ dumped Santiago's body in a vacant lot, doused it with gasoline and burned the body beyond recognition. Santiago was identified through DNA samples obtained from his parents.

RODRIGUEZ was arrested on July 27, 2000.

QUINONES was arrested on November 3, 2000.

Assistant United States Attorneys DAVID B. ANDERS and DAVID M. RODY are in charge of the prosecution.

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